

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05945 061516Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /075 W  
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P R 061445 AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9920

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S TESTIMONY AT COUP TRIAL: A  
NEW TWIST

REF ATHENS 5898

1. "NATO AND THE CIA DID IT," IS A PITHY SUMMARY OF  
PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S AUGUST 5 TESTIMONY  
AT THE TRIAL OF THE LEADERS OF THE 1967 COUP. OF  
COURSE, PAPANDREOU WOVE A MORE COMPLEX TALE, LINKING  
THE 1967 COUP TO THE CYPRUS SITUATION, A PRESENTATION  
THAT BOTH APPEALS TO THE GREEKS' SUSCEPTIBILITY TO  
CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND GIVES HIS TALE A SENSE OF  
IMMEDIACY. NOT UNEXPEDTEDLY, THEREFORE, PAPANDREOU'S  
APPEARANCE HAS DOMINATED THE PRESS, THE TELEVISION AND  
THE RADIO.

2. FOR THE MOST PART, PAPANDREOU'S TESTIMONY DID NOT  
DIFFER GREATLY FROM WHAT HE HAS SAID BEFORE, FOR  
EXAMPLE IN HIS BOOK "DEMOCRACY AT GUN POINT." IN SUM,  
THE MEN WHO CARRIED OUT THE COUP OF 1967 WERE ACTING ON  
THE ORDERS AND THE PLANS OF THE UNITED STATES AND NATO.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05945 061516Z

THESE OLD CHARGES WERE GIVEN GREATER LIFE THE PREVIOUS DAY, WHEN RETIRED GENERAL OPROPOULOS ALLEGED TO THE COURT THAT THE DEFENDANTS HAD OVER THE YEARS RECEIVED SPECIAL TREATMENT - INCLUDING PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS - WITHIN THE GREEK ARMY THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF NATO AND "FOREIGN POWERS".

3. HOWEVER, PAPANDREOU EXPLORED NEW TERRITORY WITH HIS ALLEGATION THAT THE COUP WAS "NOT UNRELATED" TO THE EVENTS ON CYPRUS IN 1974 AND 1975. THE ESSENCE OF THE THEORY IS THAT THE UNITED STATES BEGINNING AS EARLY AS 1967 HAS SOUGHT THE PARTITION OF THE ISLAND BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, TO OBTAIN BASES ON THE ISLAND. TO BRING THIS PARTICULAR STORY TO LIFE, PAPANDREOU ASSERTED THAT IN 1968 GEORGE BALL - IN A PUBLIC DEBATE - TOLD PAPANDREOU THAT DEMOCRACY IN GREECE WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF CYPRUS. FRAGMENTARY EVIDENCE TO THE OUTSIDE OBSERVER, BUT PERHAPS CONVINCING DETAIL TO MANY WILLING BELIEVERS IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. OF NOTE, TOO, WAS PAPANDREOU'S ATTEMPT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE GREEK MILITARY AND THE COUP MAKERS, BY NOTING THAT THE ARMY WAS THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE COUP.

5. THERE WAS OF COURSE NO SUCH CONCILIATION TOWARDS FORMER KING CONSTANTINE. PAPANDREOU SAID THE KING SHOULD HAVE HIS OWN PLACE AMONG THE DEFENDANTS BECAUSE, HE ALLEGED, IF PAPADOPoulos HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN MAKING A COUP THE KING WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT HIS OWN. THIS PARTICULAR CHARGE ECHOES A CLAIM MADE EARLIER IN THE TRIAL THAT THE KING AND HIS ALLIES WERE ALSO PLOTTING IN APRIL 1967 AND PAPADOPoulos SIMPLY BEAT THEM TO THE PUNCH.

6. IN CONTRAST TO PAPANDREOU'S FLAMBOYANT CHARGES, FORMER PRIME MINISTER STEPHANOS STEPHANOPoulos INTRODUCED A QUIET AND PERHAPS UNCONSCIOUS NOTE OF IRONY WHEN IN HIS TESTIMONY ON THE SAME DAY HE NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE COUP THERE WAS NO DANGER OF COMMUNISM BUT THERE WAS A DANGER OF ANARCHY. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT THE THREAT FROM THAT QUARTER COULD

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 05945 061516Z

HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH DEMOCRATICALLY AND COULD NOT JUSTIFY A COUP. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU WAS OF COURSE ONE OF THOSE SOWING THE POLITICAL WHIRLWIND IN 1967.

KUBISCH

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL TRIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 AUG 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ATHENS05945  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750271-0529  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ATHENS 5898  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971003  
**Subject:** ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S TESTIMONY AT COUP TRIAL: A NEW TWIST  
**TAGS:** PINT, GR, US, CIA, NATO, PINT, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006